

The various information services mentioned are only some of the methods used; advertising, posters, and notices are others. Whatever the method the objects are the same; first to stimulate interest, secondly to promote understanding, and finally to achieve cooperation. Members of the Forest and Bird Protection Society are already conscious of

the need for conservation of natural resources, and as people in all walks of life they can spread this consciousness throughout the community. On request we are pleased to give branches and sections of the Society whatever assistance we can in the way of informative material and advice on its use.

Some Highlights in the Society's History

On the evening of 28 March, 1923, a small group of prominent citizens met in the Dominion Farmers' Institute, Wellington, for the purpose of forming a society "to cooperate with the New Zealand Forestry League with the object of advocating and obtaining unity of control in all matters affecting wildlife." As a result of that meeting the Native Bird Protection Society was founded, and the following officers were elected: *President*, Sir Thomas Mackenzie, M.L.C.; *Vice-presidents*, Sir George Fenwick, J.P., J. P. Firth, C.M.G., and H. Guthrie-Smith; *Committee*, R. Douglas McLean, H. F. Von Haast, and A. H. Messenger; *Hon. Secretary*, Capt. E. V. Sanderson (See pages 16 and 17.)

On 23 March this year the Society will have completed 40 years of uninterrupted service to the community. During that period seven distinguished presidents have directed the affairs of the Society. Their photographs and short biographies appear elsewhere.

As the years passed the membership increased steadily but the nominal membership fees charged were found to be insufficient to carry on the activities envisaged by the founders. In 1930 it was, therefore, decided by the Executive to approach the Minister of Internal Affairs and obtain permission to conduct a national art union. Approval was granted and "The Lucky Bird" was launched—the first Kiwi—and it proved to be a "Golden" one, for the Society received net profits amounting to over £13,500, which in terms of a trust deed approved by Department of Internal Affairs was placed in a permanent trust fund with the Public Trustee as administrator. This placed the finances on a sound basis and in earlier years enabled the Society to carry on

its work successfully. It is still a valuable asset although its value has naturally lessened with ever mounting inflation and the resultant increase in costs.

In 1930 the Society was honoured by the acceptance by the Governor-General, Lord Bledisloe, of the office of first Patron, since when succeeding Governors-General and their ladies have accepted the office of joint Patrons.

The Society at first conducted its business from an office in Grey Street which it shared with Eric Lawson. Then it rented an office in the Maritime Building, and premises were successively occupied in Bowen House, and in the Union Bank Chambers, Featherston Street, until finally permanent offices in the Evening Post Building were leased.

In September 1929, in face of strong opposition from the acclimatisation societies, the Society took up the question of the deer and opossum menace and after a Dominion-wide press campaign a conference of all interests concerned was held in Christchurch in May 1930, when "open war" on deer, chamois, and thar was proclaimed. It has continued ever since. It was during the anti-deer campaign that the Society raised the alarm regarding the damage to our native forests. The opossum then was a protected animal. Today it is classed as "public enemy No. 1". In this campaign the Society received the active support of kindred bodies and the New Zealand Press.

In 1934 the name of the Society was changed to "The Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand", as it was considered a more appropriate designation, seeing "that we cannot have native birds without native